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News Release

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Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

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VA national cemeteries plan mass flag placements, virtual Memorial Day events

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs national cemeteries will allow mass flag placements across the U.S. to commemorate Memorial Day.

This is one of many events and ceremonies scheduled this year and consistent with the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.

Volunteers wishing to place flags should contact their local national cemetery.

“Memorial Day is a sacred day where we remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said. “We can never forget these heroes nor the families who continue to grieve the loss of their mother, father, son, daughter, sister or brother who stood in the gap for each of us to maintain the very democracy that we are able to treasure every day.”

McDonough will preside over the wreath laying at [Quantico National Cemetery](#) in Virginia on Friday, May 28. Acting Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. Carolyn Clancy and Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ron Walters will do the same at [Baltimore](#) and [Hampton](#) national cemeteries, respectively.

Live streaming, recorded video and photographs from these and other ceremonies will be shared on the National Cemetery Administration’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

In addition, all 155 VA national cemeteries will be open Memorial Day weekend from dawn to dusk. Cemeteries with full staffs will also hold brief wreath-laying ceremonies followed by a moment of silence and taps over Memorial Day weekend, but these will not be open to the public.

VA will also debut new features on the [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#) site in time for Memorial Day. Originally launched in 2019, VLM contains a memorial page for each of the nearly four million Veterans and service members interred in a VA national cemetery where visitors can leave written tributes.

By Memorial Day weekend, VLM will permit online visitors to submit photos and biographical summaries of a Veteran’s life, along with historical documents such as award citations, letters, and newspaper clippings. Another feature will allow visitors to follow their Veteran’s page and receive email alerts when new content is posted.

VA will also [continue its partnership with Carry The Load](#) this “Memorial May” to honor the sacrifices made by the military, Veterans, first responders and their families. Throughout the month of May, organization volunteers will march four routes across the country, visiting 42 VA national cemeteries along the way. To learn more about Carry The Load and register to march a relay leg, visit www.carrytheload.org.

For more information about VA Memorial Day commemorations, contact your local national cemetery or NCA’s chief of public affairs, Les’ Melnyk, at Les.Melnyk@VA.gov.

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